

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 42-57 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
3. Regarding Claim 42, the closest prior arts, **Gore (US Patent No. 6,274,785 B1)** discloses the claimed process except for the step of contacting a second liquid comprising at least one hydrocarbon with a second oxidant in a second reactor and **Carr (US Patent No. 5,169,516)** discloses the claimed process except for the first and second oxidants are oxygen instead of the claimed peroxycarboxylic acid. These two processes can not be combined since the process of Gore is operated by donating oxygen atoms to the sulfur in thiols and thiophenes to form sulfoxides or sulfones while the process of Carr is operated by oxidizing the mercaptans to form disulfides.

4. Claims 43-57 directly or indirectly depend on Claim 42.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to HUY-TRAM NGUYEN whose telephone number is

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(571)270-3167. The examiner can normally be reached on MON- THURS: 6:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Walter Griffin can be reached on 571-272-1447. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

HTN
6/7/2010

/Walter D. Griffin/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1797